

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A head stack assembly for a disk drive having a disk, the head stack assembly comprising:

a body portion including a bore defining a pivot axis;

an actuator arm cantilevered from the body portion;

a head gimbal assembly supported at the actuator arm and including:

a load beam;

a gimbal coupled to the load beam, and

a slider coupled to the gimbal and including a transducer for reading and writing on a recording surface of a disk, the slider including an air bearing surface that is ~~configured~~ **selectively etched** to form a shallow recessed surface and a deep recessed surface, the air bearing surface including a leading air bearing region and at least one insular region configured to reduce stiction with the disk, the leading air bearing region and the at least one insular region **being substantially co-planar so as to define a single** ~~defining a~~ radius of curvature, the shallow recessed surface being disposed between the air bearing surface and the deep recessed surface.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Canceled)

4. (Original) The head stack assembly of Claim 1, wherein the at least one insular region is bounded by the shallow recessed surface.

5. (Original) The head stack assembly of Claim 1, wherein the at least one insular region is bounded by the deep recessed surface.
6. (Canceled)
7. (Original) The head stack assembly of Claim 1, wherein a height differential between the at least one insular region of the air bearing surface and the leading air bearing region is less than 4 micro inches.
8. (Canceled)
9. (Currently Amended) The head stack assembly of Claim 1, wherein the air-bearing surface ~~includes~~ is selectively etched to form a plurality of insular regions, each of the plurality of insular regions being shaped and dimensioned so as to reduce stiction with the disk.
10. (Currently Amended) The head stack assembly of Claim 1, wherein the air-bearing surface further ~~includes~~ is selectively etched to form a center pad region disposed near a trailing edge of the slider.
11. (Original) The head stack assembly of Claim 1, wherein the at least one insular region of the air bearing surface is shaped as one of a circle and an ellipse.
12. (Original) The head stack assembly of Claim 1, wherein the at least one insular region has a surface area that is greater than 100 microns squared and less than 2000 microns squared.

13. (Original) The head stack assembly of Claim 1, further including a layer of diamond like carbon deposited on at least one of the insular region, the leading air-bearing region, the shallow recessed surface and the deep recessed surface.

14. (Currently Amended) A disk drive, comprising:

a disk having a recording surface;

a head stack assembly, including:

a body portion including a bore defining a pivot axis;

an actuator arm cantilevered from the body portion, and

a head gimbal assembly supported at the actuator arm and including:

a load beam;

a gimbal coupled to the load beam, and

a slider coupled to the gimbal and including a transducer for reading and writing on the recording surface, the slider including an air bearing surface that is ~~configured~~ selectively etched to form a shallow recessed surface and a deep recessed surface, the air bearing surface including a leading air bearing region and at least one insular region configured to reduce stiction with the disk, the leading air bearing region and the at least one insular region being substantially co-planar so as to define a single defining a radius of curvature, the shallow recessed surface being disposed between the air bearing surface and the deep recessed surface.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Canceled)

17. (Original) The disk drive of Claim 14, wherein the at least one insular region is bounded by the shallow recessed surface.
18. (Original) The disk drive of Claim 14, wherein the at least one insular region is bounded by the deep recessed surface.
19. (Canceled)
20. (Original) The disk drive of Claim 14, wherein a height differential between the at least one insular region of the air bearing surface and the leading air bearing region is less than 4 micro inches.
21. (Canceled)
22. (Currently Amended) The disk drive of Claim 14, wherein the air-bearing surface ~~includes~~ is selectively etched to form a plurality of insular regions, each of the plurality of insular regions being shaped and dimensioned so as to reduce stiction with the disk.
23. (Currently Amended) The disk drive of Claim 14, wherein the air-bearing surface further ~~includes~~ is selectively etched to form a center pad region disposed near a trailing edge of the slider.
24. (Original) The disk drive of Claim 14, wherein the at least one insular region of the air bearing surface is shaped as one of a circle and an ellipse.
25. (Original) The disk drive of Claim 14, wherein the at least one insular region has a surface area that is greater than 100 microns squared and less than 2000 microns squared.

26. (Original) The disk drive of Claim 14, further including a layer of diamond like carbon deposited on at least one of the insular region, the leading air-bearing region, the shallow recessed surface and the deep recessed surface.

27. (Currently Amended) A slider for a disk drive including a disk, the disk including a recording surface, the slider comprising:

a transducer for reading and writing on the recording surface, and

an air bearing surface that is configured to form a shallow recessed surface and a deep recessed surface, the air bearing surface ~~configured~~ being selectively etched to form a leading air bearing region and at least one insular region configured to reduce stiction with the disk, the leading air bearing region and the at least one insular region being substantially co-planar so as to define a single defining a radius of curvature, the shallow recessed surface being disposed between the air bearing surface and the deep recessed surface.

28. (Canceled)

29. (Canceled)

30. (Original) The slider of Claim 27, wherein the at least one insular region is bounded by the shallow recessed surface.

31. (Original) The slider of Claim 27, wherein the at least one insular region is bounded by the deep recessed surface.

32. (Canceled)

33. (Original) The slider of Claim 27, wherein a height differential between the at least one insular region of the air bearing surface and the leading air bearing region is less than 4 micro inches.
34. (Canceled)
35. (Currently Amended) The slider of Claim 27, wherein the air-bearing surface ~~includes~~ is selectively etched to form a plurality of insular regions, each of the plurality of insular regions being shaped and dimensioned so as to reduce stiction with the disk.
36. (Currently Amended) The slider of Claim 27, wherein the air-bearing surface further ~~includes~~ is selectively etched to form a center pad region disposed near the trailing edge of the slider.
37. (Original) The slider of Claim 27, wherein the at least one insular region of the air bearing surface is shaped as one of a circle and an ellipse.
38. (Original) The slider of Claim 27, wherein the at least one insular region has a surface area that is greater than 100 microns squared and less than 2000 microns squared.
39. (Original) The slider of Claim 27, further including a layer of diamond like carbon deposited on at least one of the insular region, the leading air-bearing region, the shallow recessed surface and the deep recessed surface.